

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 26, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 p.m.

INVOCATION: Major Becky Simmons – Salvation Army

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano and Mr. Spann were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Goralczyk discussed that a meeting took place prior to the Town Council meeting regarding the Town of Merrillville joining the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve pending the review and approval of the Inter-local Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk referenced a letter from Habitat for Humanity requesting the waiver of all future building permit fees on all present and future lots & rehabs that Habitat performs construction on in the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron with conditions that Habitat for Humanity will communicate all projects they are working on within the town as well as to pay any related inspection fees. There was no further discussion. The motion carried by a 4-1 roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated May 26, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2015. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann was absent, no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report. Mr. Hardaway requested that the town review the City of Crown Point's grass cutting ordinance for occupied resident homes and possibly incorporate something similar within the Town of Merrillville.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

There is a "Touch a Truck" event at Salk Elementary school on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Chief Yerga commented on the two recent fires that took place in Merrillville. The first fire was at the Broadmoor Apartments. There was no loss of life or injuries. Shortly thereafter another call came in for a house fire on west 58th avenue. The home owner did sustain some burn injury but was able to be treated on the scene.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. Orlich announced that brochures were dropped off at all town departments last week as well as some locations within the community. She is waiting on approval from the Merrillville Community School system to distribute the brochures to the students. Jan provided a statistic update regarding the program participation and rental income figures. The playground equipment has been installed at Wirtes Park and Jan gave an overview of the next steps involved with the project. The council praised Ms. Orlich for a job well done with the Merrillville Parks & Recreation brochure. Mr. Hardaway requested another swing set for Meadowland Park. Ms. Orlich agreed to look into this request.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake provided an update on the drainage projects within the community. He mentioned that several citations have been issued lately on permanent construction sites as an effort to ensure compliance it being met. Mr. Lake has been appointed to represent Merrillville on the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission. Letters are being sent out to deter illegal dumping to area residents where we continue to see debris. At the MS4 Annual Meeting, Stormwater received a certificate of recognition to the Town of Merrillville for outstanding development and implementation of Stormwater programs/projects that are beyond the MS4 Stormwater Quality Management plan.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway provided information to the council regarding a round-table discussion with Paul Scully, Executive Director of Building One America. It will take place at the Merrillville Municipal Complex on Friday, June 12th from 9 to 11 a.m. They will discuss sustainability of our community as well as surrounding communities. This invitation went out to all neighboring communities, mayors, presidents of the councils, the township trustees and any key department heads. He encouraged all to attend this important meeting.

Mr. Bushemi stated that discussions have been concluded with the State Board of Accounts for parcels located at 5701 & 5709 Connecticut St. A Resolution authorizing us to obtain the tax sale certificates for these lots will be presented at the Town Council meeting on June 9th. The understanding will be to then transfer the certificates to Habitat for Humanity for development of those lots for affordable housing.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-11: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the 2014 GO Bond/Contractual of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Widing. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 15-13: A Resolution authorizing the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to enter into an agreement with the County of Lake, Indiana in Undertaking Community Development Activities. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-14: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within certain categories. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Hortense Campbell
Owner: George Campbell
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a restaurant with a drive up window
Location: 6740 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case #: Z11E4-0415
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.

Mr. Widing made a motion to approve with the conditions and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Long Term Investments VI, LLC
Owner: Edna, Robert & Gerald Luebke
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a proposed 100 bed Rehab & Assisted Living Facility to be known as Bell Tower Health & Rehabilitation Center
Location: 171 East 93rd Avenue
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z12E5-0415
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.
For drainage to be approved for this site.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with the conditions and was seconded by Mr. Widing. There was discussion regarding Senate Bill 460. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, May 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
- Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, May 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- Stormwater Management Board meeting, June 2, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.
- Plan Commission Workshop, June 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- Police Commission meeting, June 5, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.
- Town Council meeting, June 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mr. Hardaway.

Tom Goralczyk, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer